

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 NSF-04 HEW-08

DOT-00 INT-08 HUD-02 DOD-00 CEQ-02 EPA-04 EB-11

IO-12 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

FAA-00 COME-00 RSR-01 /163 W  
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R 102137 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 836

INFO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: TRAIN- DAVIS BILATERAL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT

1. THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED AT THE BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN CEQ CHAIRMAN TRAIN AND CANADIAN MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT JACK DAVIS:

A. WHALES. MR. TRAIN INDICATED THAT THE US WOULD AGAIN PUT FORWARD AT IWC MEETING IN JUNE ITS PROPOSAL FOR A GENERAL MORATORIUM ON THE TAKING OF WHALES AND FOR A REDUCTION OF SPECIES QUOTAS, ESPECIALLY FOR THE FIN WHALE. THE US WOULD ALSO SUPPORT STRENGTHENING AND INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE COMMISSION AND HOPED THAT WE COULD BE IN HARMONY WITH THE CANADIANS ON THESE ISSUES. MR. DAVIS EXPRESSED CANADA'S GENERAL SUPPORT FOR A MORATORIUM BASED ON SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT REASON: CANADA'S SUPPORT FOR OPTIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD CONCEPT. HE ALSO STATED CANADA WOULD SUPPORT A ZERO QUOTA FOR FIN WHALES. BOTH PARTIES HOPED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES COULD BE INCREASED.

B. GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT. CANADIANS REVIEWED  
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CANADA'S PERFORMANCE UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND INDICATED CANADIANS ON SCHEDULE AND THAT FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT FUNCTIONING WELL. CITED PROBLEM OF US FEDERAL PERFORMANCE AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AT QUEBEC ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE APRIL 29- MAY 1 STATES AND PROVINCES WOULD BE VERY CRITICAL OF US SLIPPAGE. INDICATED A SUMMARY LIST OF PROJECTS TO BE STARTED AND THEIR ESTIMATED COST WOULD BE USEFUL INFORMATION FOR CANADIANS TO HAVE TO HELP DAMPEN SUCH CRITICISMS. MR. DAVIS SAID HE " HAD NOT CHANGED HIS POSITIVE VIEWS ON US PERFORMANCE" WHICH HE HAD STATED JANUARY US- CANADA MEETING ON GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT. US REVIEWED EPA PROGRAMS, INCREASED FUNDS WHICH ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE NATIONALLY AND IN GREAT LAKES, HIGH- LEVEL DIRECTION URGING GREAT LAKES STATES TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH GREAT LAKES AGREEMENT AND OVERALL EPA CONFIDENCE AT THIS STAGE THAT US WILL REACH GOALS WITH REASONABLE ALLOWANCES.

CANADIANS INQUIRED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF EPA- COAST GUARD DISAGREEMENT OVER VESSEL WASTE REGULATIONS BUT APPEARED MOLLIFIED BY US REASSURANCE THAT MATTER UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION AT VERY HIGH LEVELS IN BOTH AGENCIES IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE ADMITTED CONFLICT.

C. WATER LEVELS. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER ABNORMALLY HIGH WATER LEVEL IN GREAT LAKES. US REVIEWED PLAN CURRENTLY BEFORE IJC TO STORE ADDITIONAL WATER IN LAKE SUPERIOR. PROBLEM DESCRIBED AS WHETHER IJC ULTIMATELY SHOULD AGREE TO PLAN ON ITS OWN OR, IN VIEW OF POLITICAL NATURE OF PROBLEM, REFER TO GOVERNMENTS FOR DECISION. ON QUESTION OF CHICAGO DIVERSION, MR. DAVIS SAID CANADA HAD BASIC DIFFICULTY WITH ANY MATTER THAT COULD EVEN REMOTELY APPEAR TO BE CONNECTED TO CANADIAN EXPORT OF WATER. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF HIGH WATER SITUATION, CANADA WOULD HOPE TO LOOK AT PROBLEM WITH US WITHIN CONTEXT OF IJC.

D. SKAGIT RIVER. MR. DAVIS SKETCHED BACKGROUND AND CITED POLITICAL PRESSURES WHICH HAVE BUILT UP OVER BASICALLY MINOR MATTER. SAID THAT PRESSURES WERE VERY GREAT ON FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVELS TO PASS LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT TERMINATE SEATTLE- B. C. AGREEMENT. MR. TRAIN SAID US DID NOT OPPOSE A SKAGIT RIVER MEETING IN PRINCIPLE BUT HOPED THAT US COULD HAVE REPLY TO EXPLORATORY INITIATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RE PEAK POWER PRIOR TO SETTING A DATE FOR SUCH A MEETING.

US REVIEWED PROBLEM AS SEEN FROM US SIDE AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ITS INITIATIVE SINCE IT OFFERED POSSIBILITY FOR RESOLVING ISSUE AMICABLY FOR ALL SIDES CONCERNED. MR. DAVIS RAISED POSSIBILITY OF US- CANADA MEETING ON SIMPLE QUESTION OF POWER EXCHANGES PRIOR TO ANY MEETING ON SKAGIT RIVER BUT DID NOT PRESS FURTHER WITH THIS IDEA.

E. EAST COAST/ WEST COAST TANKERS. IMPORTANCE OF JOINT ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH EFFORT IN PUGET SOUND AREA STRESSED. WHILE US REGRETTED THAT FULL FUNDING NOT FORTHCOMING IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, IT HOPED THAT THIS WOULD NOT PRECLUDE ONGOING EFFORT AND HOPED THAT MOMENTUM COULD BE KEPT UP SINCE MUCH WORK COULD BE DONE IN COORDINATION OF PLANS AND PROGRAMS ON BOTH SIDES.

2. MEETING ENDED WITH AGREEMENT NOT TO HAVE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. HOWEVER, PRESS ENTERED CONFERENCE ROOM AND ASKED QUESTIONS ON SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. SUBSEQUENT PRESS REPORTS QUOTED MR. DAVIS AS SAYING THAT " ACCORD REACHED ON OIL SPILLS BY CANADA- US" WITH AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED " IN TWO WEEKS." HE IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING HE DID NOT THINK OIL SUPERTANKERS WOULD EVER ENTER PUGET SOUND AREA, AND HIS SUGGESTION THAT NATURAL GAS DELIVERIES TO THE UNITED STATES PROVIDED CANADA WITH THE NECESSARY LEVERAGE TO FORCE SHIFT IN TANKER ROUTES AWAY FROM PUGET SOUND WAS CITED. NETHER SUBJECT DISCUSSED IN BILATERAL MEETING ALTHOUGH IN REPLY TO PRESS QUESTION MR. TRAIN DID EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT' S PREFERENCE OF ALASKA PIPELINE ROUTE AND INDICATED IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN FOR CONTROLLING OIL SPILLS, CITING ADVANCED STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN. SCHMIDT

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